

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

✓ Please cancel claims 2, 4, 6, 11 and 18-20 without prejudice.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A packet~~ An apparatus comprising:

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an interface connectable to a network, said interface a
payload configured to transmit information via a frame in said
network, said frame the packet comprising a packet envelope
carrying a plurality of packets, wherein a first of said packets
has one or more labels configured to control routing of the said
first packet through said network and said a payload to carry said
information.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The packet apparatus~~ according to claim 1, wherein said network comprises one of a SONET/SDH Synchronous Optical Network and a Synchronous Digital Hierarchy fiber optic network.

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said one or more labels comprise MPLS Multi-Protocol Label Switching labels.

6. (CANCELLED)

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7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 1, ~~comprising wherein at least one of said packets comprises a Simple Data Link packet identifier with a payload header configured to store configuration information to identify one of a plurality of protocols a data type of said payload, wherein used in said packet contains a specific protocol identifier, separate from a general protocol identifier, for each of a number of different packet data types.~~

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first packet further comprising comprises a link layer address following said labels configured to control a node to node transfer.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said link layer address comprises a destination address and a source address.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first packet further comprising comprises a data identification portion preceding said labels and configured to identify a data type of said information.

11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first packet further comprising comprises an error portion configured to determine a data error.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said network comprises a plurality of nodes configured to address said one or more labels.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 13, wherein each of said nodes comprise de-framing hardware ~~for~~ configured to read said one or more labels from said first frame.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 14, wherein each of said plurality of nodes is configured

to transport said first frame in response to said one or more labels.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

one or more nodes configured to transfer one or more frames on a network, each of said frames comprising a packet envelope carrying one or more packets, ~~each packet comprising a payload and at least one of said packets having one or more labels configured to control switching of the one or more packets said at least one packet and said payload by said one or more nodes, wherein each node is configured to transmit and/or receive said one or more packets in response to said one or more labels.~~

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for transmitting one or more packets of data, comprising the steps of:

(A) transmitting ~~and/or receiving~~ a frame comprising a packet envelop carrying said one or more packets, ~~each a first of~~ said one or more packets comprising one or more labels and a payload; and

(B) controlling switching of said ~~one or more packets of~~ first packet in said frame through said network in response to said one or more labels.

18. (CANCELLED)

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (CANCELLED)

21. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a second of said packets is void of said labels.

22. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first packet further comprises a network layer address following said link layer address.

23. (NEW) The method according to claim 17, wherein said one or more labels comprises Multi-Protocol Label Switching labels.

24. (NEW) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of:

switching said first packet to another network in response to said one or more labels.

25. (NEW) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of:

storing a path signal label in a Path Overhead section in a frame header of said frame to specify each type of said one or more packets within said packet envelope.

26. (NEW) The method according to claim 17, wherein said first packet has a first protocol, a second of said one or more packets has a second protocol different than said first protocol and a third of said one or more packets has a third protocol different than said first protocol and said second protocol.

27. (NEW) The method according to claim 17, wherein step (A) comprises the sub-steps of:

transmitting said one or more labels of said first packet; and

transmitting a link layer address of said first packet after transmitting said one or more labels.